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ABSTRACT

This report provides board policy samples and other policy resources on pregnant and/or married students. The intent in providing policy samples is to encourage thinking in policy terms and to provide working papers that can be edited, modified, or adapted to meet local requirements. The report points up changing attitudes toward pregnant and/or married students and discusses the relative conservatism of board policies on the subject. The report suggests that the function of schools is to provide education for all students and advises boards to seek legal consultation for guidance in drawing up policies on this subject to avoid being pushed into litigation. (Author/JF)

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## *Educational Policies Development Kit*

*a component of the  
Educational Policies Service*

EA 004 032



NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

ED 058661

## *School Board Policies on Pregnant and/or Married Students*

Cat. no. 71-59

December, 1971

This is the sixth and last in the 1971 series of kit-booklets issued to help school boards develop written policies in key subject areas. All policy samples and other policy resources reproduced herein have been selected from the files of the Policy Information Clearinghouse of the National School Boards Association's Educational Policies Service (EPS/NSBA) and coded to the EPS/NSBA policy codification system.

The intent in providing policy samples is to encourage thinking in policy terms; to provide "something to start with"--working papers to be edited, modified, or adapted to meet local requirements. Administrators of EPS/NSBA member organizations should file this booklet for continuing reference in their master copy of the Educational Policies Reference Manual.

These materials are disseminated for information only and do not necessarily reflect official viewpoints of the National School Boards Association.

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EPS files: JQE--Pregnant Students  
JQF--Married Students

## Introduction

*"Today the attitude toward high school mothers is changing dramatically. While teen-age pregnancy is just as unwanted and undesirable as ever, more and more parents and schools are trying to help the girls put their lives together again instead of ostracizing them."--Richard Woodbury in Life, April 2, 1971*

*"The movement toward greater understanding of the married student...should be welcomed by humanitarians and educators."--Joe Huber in Phi Delta Kappan, October, 1970*

Attitudes are changing. That fact should make it somewhat easier for school boards to get on with the job of updating their written policies on pregnant and/or married students.

Somewhat easy. But not easy. The subject does, after all, touch closely on matters of public morality, family values, and religious belief. It is controversial.

No one likes controversy, of course. And the fear of it can be inhibiting. We suspect that this is why some school boards do not yet have written policies on pregnant and/or married students. Such boards tend to go into executive session to decide on "individual cases." They seem to fear that if they develop a straightforward policy that it will somehow give the impression that it is "encouraging early marriages" or "promiscuous behavior." We should recognize this kind of practice and attitude for what it is: a cop out and an evasion of responsibility.

True, the board that does take an enlightened, fair-minded, and compassionate stand on this issue may spark the ire of local Pecksniffs and other self-appointed guardians of public morality. But no school board today can insulate itself from criticism or controversy, and today's school board members are expected to be

enlightened, fair-minded, and compassionate. Such are the qualities that go with the job. Further, it is imperative that school boards do develop written policies--especially on controversial issues--so as to facilitate the fair and equal treatment of all students and the orderly administration of the schools.

So our first suggestion is this: Be brave. Proceed with the development or review of your school district's written policies on pregnant and/or married students.

Next suggestion: Don't misread the function of the public schools. It is to provide a good education for all students, not just the majority of youngsters who accept and conform to society's predominant values and expectations. Most kids don't marry while they are still in high school; most girls don't have babies before they are graduated. Yet those few who do marry and give birth have the same right to enjoy and to profit from the opportunities afforded by a free public education as the majority.

Next suggestion: Get a lawyer. As a board member, you and your colleagues' responsibility to help make policy is inescapable. You can't pass the buck to the school attorney, to the school superintendent, or to anyone else. Nevertheless, you can and should be guided by professional opinion. And the school attorney's opinion on any new or revised policies on pregnant and/or married students is critically important. Litigation has been unusually extensive in this field, and as in other matters of school law, the book of judicial opinion is in a state of change. Students and their parents are well aware of their constitutional rights, and school boards are being hauled into court these days with doleful regularity to defend their policy positions.

#### To Restrict or Not to Restrict?

Perhaps the biggest debate school boards will get into when considering its pregnant-married policies will be on whether to restrict or not to restrict student activities. Two bits of evidence suggest that restrictive policies are more common than nonrestrictive ones. But, as we shall see in a moment, this fact probably should not be considered a dependable guide as to what current policy ought to be.

But first, consider the evidence:

1. Restrictive policies outnumber nonrestrictive ones in the master files of the EPS/NSBA Clearinghouse. The more "liberal" policies were selected from these files for this kit because, we felt, these were more in line with current educational and legal opinion.
2. While we know of no national studies in this field, a re-

cent survey covering 558 schools in Texas indicates that a majority of policies have restrictive clauses. For example, 398 (83.8%) of the responding schools do not allow married students to participate in co-curricular activities while 160 (33.6%) impose no restrictions because of a student's marital status.

The Texas study bears further comment. It was conducted by B. B. Brown of Baylor University who scrupulously compared local board policy with established legal bases--the state constitution, state law, state and U.S. attorneys general opinions, and court decisions. Brown found a mishmash of provisions in the various policies he examined.

- Some permitted married students to attend school only on a part-time basis.
- Some permitted either a husband or wife to attend school but not both.
- Some permitted some married and/or pregnant students to continue in school but not others. (This is what happens when the policy states "each case will be decided on its own merits"; it forces the board to play God.)
- Some called for the immediate suspension or expulsion of students.

Brown's conclusion: The restrictive policies in many Texas school districts run directly counter to the students' legal right to a free public education.

Brown and others who have studied this field are in general agreement that restrictive policies are not, by and large,

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#### TO SAVE A CHILD

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*"What do you do about married students in the secondary schools? About pregnant girls in the classroom? Your policies can encourage the school staff to continue to accept married youths as full-fledged students, help married students to see the relationships between their family and school responsibilities, help married students see the changed nature of their status and responsibilities toward other students. Think through the problem. Then, remember as you work toward a policy and set of rules about married students, 'The child you save may be your own.'"*--Daniel R. Davies and Henry M. Brickell in School Board Policies, Croft Educational Services, Vol. 3, No. 1., 1960

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suitable to today's times. They don't solve problems. They don't prevent early marriages. They don't stop girls from getting pregnant. They don't "protect the nice kids" from sex. And some rest on very thin ice in the eyes of the law.

### The Paradoxical Society

There is a paradox at work in America today. On the one hand we see evidence all about us of a decline in public morality. Too many illegitimate births. Too much v.d. Too much commercializing of sex. Too much violence and corruption.

Yet, oddly, in certain areas of human relations, there may well be just a bit more kindness, compassion, and honesty. The urge not to punish but to help kids--all kids--may well be a stronger impulse in today's school officials. Certainly, there are many outmoded policies on pregnant and/or married students still in the books. But they can be changed. Perhaps they should be. But this is for you to decide.

\* \* \* \* \*

The sample documents in this kit are intended to help you make the right decision--right for your school district and the students you serve. They range from broad recommendations relating to the schools and problems relating to sex to policies like Dayton's that offer specific alternatives to meet the special educational needs of pregnant girls. We hope you will find this material to be of value.

--William E. Dickinson  
Director, EPS/NSBA

PREGNANT AND/OR MARRIED STUDENTS  
(Right to Education)

The right to an education provided for all students by law should not be abrogated for a particular student because of marriage or pregnancy unless there is compelling evidence that his or her presence in the classroom or school does, in fact, disrupt or impair the educational process for other students. This includes the right to participate in all the activities of the school. If temporary or permanent separation from the school should be warranted, the education provided elsewhere should be qualitatively and quantitatively equivalent to that of the regular school so far as is practicable.

SOURCE: From Academic Freedom in the Secondary Schools,  
American Civil Liberties Union

DATE: 9/68

PREGNANT AND/OR MARRIED STUDENTS  
(Right to Education)

You have a right to a free and full education through secondary school in New Jersey from ages 5 through 20, unless you graduate before that age. You are required by law to regularly attend an approved educational institution until you are 16. You may not be asked to leave school merely because you have reached 16 years of age if you are, in fact, fulfilling your responsibilities as a student. Those responsibilities also require you to follow and attempt to complete the course of study prescribed by your board of education. If it is determined that you are not fulfilling your responsibilities as a student, you may be subject to punishment. Married students share these responsibilities and rights, including the opportunity to participate in the full range of activities offered by the school. Local school districts may determine policies for providing pregnant students with the elements of an educational program designed to meet their special needs.

SOURCE: A Guide to Student Rights & Responsibilities in New Jersey, issued by the New Jersey Association of High School Councils and the New Jersey Association of Secondary School Principals with the endorsement of the state school boards and school administrators associations.

DATE: 1971

PREGNANT STUDENTS

Recognizing that educational opportunities are part of the value system of a free society, and recognizing further that education in our increasingly complex and technological society is a prerequisite for the opportunity to lead a full and productive life, the National Council on Illegitimacy advocates the right to continued public education for all pregnant girls and young mothers.

The pregnant girl and young mother has or should have the legal right to continued schooling in regular school classes. In the event that an individual pregnant student desires to withdraw from her home school during pregnancy, the public school system alone, or in conjunction with other community institutions, has an obligation to furnish her with separate facilities, educationally centered, and enriched through health and welfare services.

SOURCE: The Advisory Board of the National Council on  
Illegitimacy

DATE: 11/4/66; amended 10/25/68

SEX EDUCATION  
(Schools and Problems Relating to Sex)

WHEREAS, the altered structure of our society has resulted in greater permissiveness, and changing moral values, and the years when sexual drives are recognized to be approaching a peak presents the need for important and even urgent decisions on the part of youth, and the exploitation by all forms of mass media of the sensual aspects of sex has placed undue emphasis on erotic behavior, as opposed to mature, responsible love relationships, and the disparity between expressed beliefs and observed actions of many adults has not passed unnoticed by the youth of our country, and the persistent occurrence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and of venereal disease has been paralleled by a lessening of the restrictive effect on sexual behavior by either of these conditions,

THEREFORE, BE IT  
RESOLVED,

that the schools accept appropriate responsibility for reinforcing the efforts of parents to transmit knowledge about the values inherent in our family system, and about the psychic, moral, and physical consequences of sexual behavior, and be it further resolved

that this be done by including in the general and health education curriculum the physiology and biology of human reproduction beginning at the elementary level and continuing throughout the school years at increasing levels of comprehension, and that the study of venereal diseases continue to be a part of communicable disease education during early adolescence, and be it further resolved

that the concept of the family as a unit of society based on mature, responsible love be a continuing and pervasive educational goal.

SOURCE: A resolution of the Joint Committee on Health Problems  
in Education of the National Education Association and  
the American Medical Association

DATE: 3/30/64

SEX EDUCATION  
(Family Life Education)

Family Life Education is an ongoing process of preparation for living in contemporary society through which understanding of man is furthered throughout the life cycle, from infancy through old age. It relates to the totality of human experience--physical, spiritual, social, and emotional. The cornerstone of Family Life Education is open communication within the family and extending to the wider community.

Among many contributions Family Life Education helps build an ethical, emotional, and factual foundation for sexual behavior. One of its important goals is enabling young people to develop appropriate attitudes and understandings regarding their sex roles, thus enhancing their opportunities to develop into responsible, emotionally mature adults, capable of ordering their own lives on the basis of sound values.

National Council on Illegitimacy considers that Family Life Education has especial significance to the area of illegitimacy. It is important that young men and women gain self-understanding and develop respect for themselves and for others, realize the deep responsibility of parenthood, and recognize the consequences of pre- and extra-marital sex relations. Family Life Education can be one of the forces instrumental in helping unmarried parents and their children learn to live with the pressures exerted on an unmarried family in a family based culture.

Family Life Education is the responsibility of the total community and it is important to deal with all factors adversely affecting strong family life. The home, the church, the school, and the social agency all have a part to play in strengthening family life. Organized programs should encourage participation of the whole family group. It is urged that the young be included, beginning at the pre-school level, with activities indicated by their readiness and stage of maturity.

NCI holds that information about the development and availability of family planning should be an integral part of Family Life Education at appropriate age levels. Each individual should be afforded the chance of learning to exercise sound judgment in living responsibly in family and community within the society of which he is a part.

SOURCE: The Advisory Board of the National Council on  
Illegitimacy, 44 East 23rd Street, New York City 10010  
DATE: 4/18/69

MARRIED STUDENTS

Married students shall have the same educational opportunities--curricular and extracurricular--as unmarried students. They shall be expected to assume the same responsibilities and abide by the same rules and regulations governing all other students.

SOURCE: School District #10, Tacoma, Wash.  
DATE: 7/22/71

\* \* \* \* \*

All wedded students and student-parents shall be allowed to remain in school and complete their program toward graduation. These students shall be allowed the right to represent their school in interscholastic activities including athletics and school activities including clubs and organizations, and they shall be eligible for faculty voted honors at commencement.

SOURCE: Hardy County Board of Education, Moorefield, W. Va.  
DATE: 12/18/67; 9/1/70

\* \* \* \* \*

Married students may continue in school and participate in extracurricular activities and student affairs as long as they conduct themselves with dignity, and with a proper appreciation for their married status. Decisions regarding any problems arising in this respect shall be of such a nature as to insure a wholesome school atmosphere for all students.

SOURCE: South Brunswick Township, Monmouth Junction, N.J.  
DATE: 10/25/61

### MARRIED STUDENTS

When any pupil marries, his program will be reviewed with his counselor and principal. If it should be found that his marital status interferes with his school work, or that his school work interferes with his marital responsibilities, appropriate adjustments in his program will be made.

Participation in extracurricular activities will not be allowed due to the following reasons:

1. Married students assume new and serious responsibilities. Participation in extracurricular activities tends to interfere with discharging these responsibilities.
2. A basic education program is even more essential for married students. Therefore, full attention should be given to the school program in order that the marriage will have a better chance of being successful.
3. Married students need to spend time with their families in order that the marriage will have a better chance of being successful.

The above provisions will also apply to those individuals who give birth to a child but do not choose to be married, and to those individuals who are married and then receive a legal divorce or separation.

SOURCE: Friend Public Schools, Friend, Nebraska  
DATE: 8/10/70

PREGNANT AND/OR MARRIED STUDENTS

THE EAST SYRACUSE-MINOA CENTRAL SCHOOLS ARE COMMITTED AND DEDICATED TO THE TASK OF PROVIDING THE BEST EDUCATION POSSIBLE FOR EVERY CHILD IN THE DISTRICT FOR AS LONG AS HE CAN PROFIT FROM ATTENDANCE AND HIS CONDUCT IS COMPATIBLE WITH THE WELFARE OF THE GROUP.

Under this guiding philosophy, the Board believes that married students have the same privileges and carry the same responsibilities as unmarried students and further sets forth the following provisions:

1. The staff shall advise students strongly against marriage until after completion of their high school education. It shall be pointed out to the students that marriage is a very serious and important step in life and should not be taken lightly and without due consideration of the added responsibilities it imposes on both parties. A solid foundation upon which a successful marriage can be built includes, among other things, some degree of financial independence, a home of one's own, and freedom from the constant concern and dependence upon parents. Students in high school will find it difficult, if not impossible, to possess these important factors for a successful, early marriage. The added responsibilities of marriage will make it difficult to gain the full educational benefits of the total school programs.
2. Married students must report their marriages to their guidance counselors so that school records can be kept up to date and accurate.
3. Married students shall be expected to conduct themselves in a commendable manner and refrain from undue references to married life. Any problem arising in this respect shall be handled on an individual basis by the Pupil Personnel Services, counselors, and administrators. The decision in each case shall be of such a nature as to insure a wholesome school atmosphere for all students.
4. To continue in school, married students must attend regularly and keep up with their schoolwork. Poor attendance caused by any other reason than illness, and a poor scholastic record caused by lack of preparation, lack of effort, or cooperation may be considered sufficient reason to cancel enrollment.
5. All married girls should be told that although pregnancy is not a cause for immediate discontinuance of school attendance, the

(Overleaf)

girl's guidance counselor or, the school nurse-teacher, or other members of the pupil personnel staff, and administration must be informed of the pregnancy as soon as the condition has been established.

6. In the event of pregnancy, a married girl may elect any one of the following procedures concerning her education:
  - a. If the pregnant girl wishes to remain in school, approval from the girl's doctor must be obtained. The doctor's statement should advise that attendance at school and participation in the regular school program will have no adverse effects on the girl's health. When the condition of pregnancy reaches a state of development where the nature of school activities is considered to be hazardous to the girl's health and welfare, and, after a conference with the school nurse-teacher and the girl's guidance counselor, the principal will notify in writing the husband of the girl and her doctor of this situation. The responsibility for her continuance in school will then rest with the husband and her doctor.
  - b. If the pregnant girl chooses to leave school and wishes to continue her education, the school will provide homebound instruction until such time as her doctor states that she may return to school. In the event that she can not return to school, home instruction should be continued for the remainder of the school year. Every effort will be made to insure her graduation from high school.
  - c. If the pregnant girl chooses to leave school and not continue her education, every effort will be made to reinstate the girl the following year.

SOURCE: East Syracuse-Minoa Central Schools, East Syracuse, N.Y.  
DATE: 3/24/70

EDITOR'S NOTE: See also this school district's policy JQG--Unwed Mothers which is reproduced in this kit.

PREGNANT AND/OR MARRIED STUDENTS

The Monroe Board of Education recognizes that students who either marry early or become pregnant outside of marriage need the counseling, health services, and education available through the public schools as much or more than other students their age. As a minimum, these students should have the same educational opportunities as their peers. As a maximum, they should have access to all pertinent special services and considerations that are provided other exceptional students enrolled in the Monroe schools.

Arrangements for attendance, homebound instruction, counseling, and placement should be made in concert with the parents and--in the case of pregnant girls--their physician. The best interests of the individual student shall determine the arrangements to be made for the student's education.

The Administration is authorized, in terms of the statements above, to make special arrangements for attendance, promotion, graduation, etc., for married and/or pregnant students who wish to continue and complete their education in the public schools of Monroe.

SOURCE: Board of Education, Monroe, Conn.  
DATE: 5/25/71

PREGNANT AND/OR MARRIED STUDENTS

Married students and/or pregnant girls, married or unmarried, may elect to remain in the regular school program and shall not be involuntarily excluded from any part of the regular program, provided, however, that reasonable safeguards are provided both for the school and the student's best interests.

Decisions concerning special educational programs or placements for pregnant or married students shall be reached in joint consultation with them, their parents and/or wife or husband, appropriate school personnel, and the girl's physician, if pregnancy is involved.

All cases are to be handled confidentially and on an individual basis. Consideration is to be shown so the best possible arrangement regarding credits and graduation can be made.

Students who are married must declare their status at the time of marriage or at the time of enrollment in the school, but no special or unusual arrangements are to be made until the responsibilities of marriage or pregnancy require them.

SOURCE: Board of Education, Monroe, Conn.  
DATE: 5/25/71

PREGNANT AND/OR MARRIED STUDENTS

To clarify questions that may arise and to make possible fair arrangements for all cases in which married and/or pregnant students may be involved, the Board has established the following regulations and principles:

1. Students who are married must declare their status at the time of marriage or at the time of enrollment in school.
2. Married students shall be expected to conduct themselves in a commendable manner and refrain from undue references to their married life. Any problems arising in this respect shall be handled by the principal and girls' counselor and a decision made to insure a wholesome school atmosphere for all students.
3. Parents should continue their interest in the students' attendance and performance at school. If an attendance problem arises it is understood that the student will withdraw until the condition is corrected.
4. A pregnant girl shall withdraw from school at a time set in consultation with the principal, girls' advisor, and parent before her condition becomes obvious. In most cases a pregnant girl may be allowed to complete a quarter if this will aid in setting a time of reentry or completion of her education.
5. All cases will be handled confidentially and on an individual basis. Consideration will be shown so the best possible arrangement regarding credits and graduation can be made.
6. The completion of six senior high school semesters of attendance is a requirement for graduation. Students may not transfer credits earned in former semesters to fulfill the sixth semester requirement.
7. Pregnant girls who are confined to a maternity home that has access to a public school program may continue their high school studies and transfer back to high school at an appropriate time set in a conference with the high school principal and counselor. Credits certified in another public school district will be accepted toward graduation requirements.
8. Failure of a student to comply with these provisions can be cause for suspension from school.

SOURCE: School District #5, Aberdeen, Wash.  
DATE: 2/22/66

PREGNANT STUDENTS

1. A student who becomes pregnant may choose one of the following alternatives, within the limits indicated:
  - a. Remain in school unless her physician certifies that it is unsuitable for her to do so. The student will be responsible for her own health and safety as well as making arrangements for make-up work during her absence for delivery.
  - b. Apply for admission to the Daytime Center for Girls. This alternative is open to unmarried girls of high school age. Admission is granted only at the beginning of a semester with at least 15 weeks remaining prior to delivery.
  - c. Apply for temporary assignment to the Dayton Night High School. This alternative is available for girls 16 years of age and older on a tuition-free basis. Entry can be no later than December 1 for the first semester or April 1 for the second semester.
2. Return to school under alternatives (b) and (c) above must await the beginning of a new semester following delivery, since both Daytime Center and night school programs are specifically oriented toward a semester block of study.
3. A student who is physically unable to attend school on a regular basis for more than six weeks due to her pregnancy may apply for home instruction services. This service may be limited due to the availability of teachers.

SOURCE: Board of Education, Dayton, Ohio  
DATE: 10/14/71

PREGNANT STUDENTS

Students, upon verification of pregnancy, shall be advised of the program provided under Public Act No. 242.

1. The principal, upon receipt of information from counselor, nurse, or other school personnel which leads him to believe that a student may be pregnant, is responsible for referring such a case to the Department Head of School Social Workers. This Department Head is responsible for obtaining verification and for developing and individualizing a plan for the student which may include remaining in school, maternity home placement, homebound teaching, Family Service or other appropriate services, or an accredited alternative educational program provided by the school district.
2. The principal or his delegate of the school will work with special service pupil personnel in developing an educational plan for the student. Regular child accounting procedures are then followed.
3. Students or students' parent may contact directly the Department Head of the School Social Workers for necessary planning.
4. Students are re-enrolled in public school after the post partum examination report is received from the physician and reviewed by the school social worker plus person or persons who have been actively engaged with education of the student.
5. Before re-entrance, the school social worker will contact the school principal.

SOURCE: Board of Education, Wayne-Westland Community Schools,  
Wayne, Mich.

DATE: 6/10/71 (revised)

PREGNANT STUDENTS

The school district's educational responsibility for all students residing in the school district includes pregnant teenagers, married or unmarried. A pregnant girl shall be allowed to remain in school and to receive any services which are a part of the regular educational program of the school district as long as her physical and emotional condition permit. Any variation from continuing regular school classes shall be based upon her assessed needs. The girl's husband (or parent if she is unmarried) and physician should be consulted in developing the educational plan to fit her needs.

For some girls alternatives other than continuing in regular classes will need to be considered including referral to adult evening school, Faith Home, or other agency.

In the event the principal concludes that the pregnant girl should be referred to an alternative educational setting and the girl and her husband (or parent) insist on her staying in the regular program, a statement signed by them to that effect should be filed with the Administrative Director of Health Services. If personal or situational factors are involved, the decision in determining the length of time the girl may stay in the regular program rests with the school principal. Usual appeal procedures regarding attendance will apply.

SOURCE: School District #10, Tacoma, Wash.  
DATE: 7/22/71

PREGNANT STUDENTS  
(Special Education Objectives)

The objectives of the special schools for pregnant girls of New York City are as follows:

1. To improve the attendance of pregnant school age girls in a separate school setting where they are grouped according to grade level in small classes and receive individual instruction.
2. To increase the percentage of incidence of live births among pregnant students by involving them in health programs through health instruction and introduction to medical and social welfare facilities.
3. To increase the skills of the participating girls in infant care and allied homemaking areas.
4. To increase the number of pregnant school age girls who maintain their education beyond the birth of their baby.
5. To raise the student's entry level in a saleable skill such as typing, clerical skills, operation of business machines.
6. To change in a positive direction the academic profile of low achieving pregnant students.

SOURCE: Board of Education, New York City  
DATE: 1970-71

UNWED MOTHERS

RECOGNIZING THAT EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ARE PART OF THE VALUE SYSTEM OF A FREE SOCIETY, AND RECOGNIZING FURTHER THAT EDUCATION IN OUR INCREASINGLY COMPLEX AND TECHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY IS A PRE-REQUISITE FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEAD A FULL AND PRODUCTIVE LIFE, THE BOARD OF THE EAST SYRACUSE-MINOA CENTRAL SCHOOLS ADVOCATES THE RIGHT TO A CONTINUED PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR ALL UNWED PREGNANT GIRLS AND YOUNG MOTHERS.

1. The Board further advocates that an unwed, expectant mother shall report her condition to the school nurse-teacher, guidance counselor, principal, and/or other members of the pupil personnel staff and withdraw from the regular school program when the fact is known and before it becomes obvious.
2. Every effort will be made to place the girl in special educational setting such as Y-Med or other approved state programs. In the event this is not possible, homebound instruction shall be provided from the date of her withdrawal until she is able to return to school following the birth of the child. An individual decision by pupil personnel staff will be necessary to determine what is in the best interest of the girl.
3. Following the birth of the child and with medical permission, she may re-enter the school and every effort will be made by the school staff to help rehabilitate her toward successful life. This effort shall continue for as long as her conduct is acceptable and her presence is compatible with the welfare of the group. All cases coming under the above regulations shall be handled on an individual and strictly confidential basis and in cooperation with the parents, guardian, homebound teacher, and/or other proper agencies and authorities.
4. The failure of a student to comply with these provisions can be cause for her suspension from school.

SOURCE: East Syracuse-Minoa Central Schools, East Syracuse, N.Y.  
DATE: 3/24/70

PREGNANT STUDENTS  
(Handbook Information for Students in Special Program)

This year in America 200,000 girls under 18 will become mothers. Most will become high school drop-outs, and few will return to school. By participating in this program sponsored by the Board of Education for school-age mothers you have chosen more realistically for your future. Here, in small classes taught by fully certified instructors, you may be scheduled for four or more of the subjects you had selected at your home school. Individual and group counseling are available to help you with your concerns--educational and personal.

Attendance and Referral. Any school-age pregnant girl residing in Harford County may attend classes at the Center without charge. Our students usually begin attendance three to five months after pregnancy and remain with the program for several weeks following delivery. Free transportation to and from the Center is provided, and hot lunch is available at a nominal cost. Referral of a prospective student may be made in several ways. Most often, high school guidance counselors make the referrals. A doctor, the maternity clinic, any public or private agency, or the girl herself may contact the Center's guidance counselor to complete the referral.

You remain enrolled at your home school during the time you are attending the Center. You are not withdrawn and re-entered, and there is no special notation on your record as having attended the Center. At the end of each month your attendance is reported to your home school as are your grades at the end of each marking period. Your report card will be issued at the Center during your attendance here. All contacts with your home school are to be handled through the guidance counselors.

School Subjects. The Center's program provides basic education for high school students. English and social studies are offered for all grade levels. Science and math courses are available through grade 10. The full range of commercial subjects, except data processing, is available. Wherever possible, specialized subjects may be provided on a programmed basis. Advanced science, math, and language programs are presently not provided. A course in Family Living is required for all students at the Center. This group-centered counseling stresses pre-natal care, effective family relationships, and child care. The school day is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The schedule provides for a 7 period day, with each class lasting approximately 45 minutes.

How Classes Operate. The Center's program is conducted in accordance with Board of Education policies and classes consist of small

groups or individualized instruction. Emphasis is placed on having each student working at her own pace, developing good work-study habits, and demonstrating increasing self-reliance. Students must report to classes promptly and must have all books and materials with them. It is the student's responsibility to obtain and complete all assignments. The teachers expect all work to be made up. Regular school dress is appropriate as long as it fits comfortably. As pregnancy advances, one or two piece maternity outfits are more desirable. However, slacks are permitted.

Medical Care. It is essential that you receive regular medical care during your pregnancy. Many of the complications of teen-age pregnancies are avoided when the mother-to-be receives proper pre-natal care and nutritional instruction. The Center therefore requires that each girl must receive regular pre-natal care from her private physician or from one of the maternity clinics sponsored by the County Health Department.

Other Services. Services of the other programs of the Center may be called upon if needed to supplement the teaching and counseling services for the girls. The Center staff includes a full-time reading specialist, an audiologist, and a psychologist. On a part-time basis we retain a pediatrician-psychiatrist, health nurse, psychologist, psychometrist, and language consultant.

Visitors. Professional visits by your social worker, the county health nurse, the vocational rehabilitation counselor, or other social, medical, or educational personnel may be made at the Center when the approval of the Principal is obtained. No visits by friends or relatives are permitted. Social contacts are not a prime function of the school and visits interfere with the operation of the Center activities.

Yearbook Pictures and Graduation. If you are a senior, arrangements are made for you to have your picture taken for your school yearbook. To participate in graduation exercises at your home school, you must have resumed attending classes there by June 1. If you are attending the Center at the end of the school year, appropriate graduation exercises will be held there. Your diploma will bear the name of your home school.

Instruction During Confinement Period. One week before your expected date of confinement you will go on homebound instruction. When you leave, take your books and materials with you. Your teachers will give you assignments to cover one week, and a tutor will be requested for you. You must submit a note from your doctor at this time requesting homebound instruction. After the birth of the baby, if a tutor is available, you will remain on homebound instruction until your doctor releases you to attend classes at

the Center or to return to your home school. If a tutor is not available, teachers at the Center will set up a program of studies for you to follow. You must see that this work is returned to the Center once a week. Special mailing envelopes will be given to you for this purpose.

Back to Class. Planning for your return to classes is done on an individual basis and is dependent on your doctor's release. With the doctor's approval students may return to classes at the Center as early as two weeks following delivery. Should transportation prove to be a handicap following delivery, you may re-enter your home school without resuming classes at the Center providing you have the doctor's approval and confer with the Center counselor. Arrangements for re-entry to your home school are made by the Center counselor. Your tutor will give the Center counselor your grades about one week before you are to return to high school. The school counselor will be notified to expect you, and your grades will be submitted to the school. On your return to school, report directly to your guidance counselor. He or she will have your schedule prepared and will have made all necessary arrangements for you.

Good luck!

SOURCE: Student Handbook for the Cyesis (Pregnancy) Program  
of the Harford-Cecil Supplementary Education Center,  
Havre deGrace, Md.  
DATE: Fall, 1971

## For further reading . . .

### Articles

- ° "Boards Still Duck the Problem of Pregnant Schoolgirls." The American School Board Journal, April, 1970.
- ° "Help for High School Mothers." Life, April 2, 1971.
- ° "Married Students and Mothers" in Legal Aspects of Control of Student Activities by Public School Authorities by E. Edmund Reutter, Jr. National Organization on Legal Problems in Education, 825 Western, Topeka, Kansas 66606. 1970. 54 pp.
- ° "Married Students vs. Married Dropouts" by Joe Huber. Phi Delta Kappan, October, 1970.
- ° "North Carolina Charts a Course Toward Positive Policies on Pregnant Students" by Janice L. Narron. Updating School Board Policies, September, 1971. EPS/NSBA 152 Cross Road, Waterford, Connecticut 06385. One reprint free upon request.
- ° "Pregnant Teen-agers." Today's Education, October, 1970.
- ° "Redefining the Status of Married High School Students" by B. B. Brown. Phi Delta Kappan, October, 1971.
- ° "Rights of School Personnel to Discipline and Control Pupils" in Guide to School Law by M. Chester Nolte. Parker Publishing Company, West Nyack, N.Y. 1969. 238 pp.
- ° "School Continues for Pregnant Teenagers" by Marion Howard. American Education, December, 1968.
- ° "The Teenage Parent: An Educational and Social Crisis" by Ted W. Gray. Phi Delta Kappan, October, 1970.

### Research Reports

- ° A Community Project for Continuing Education, Health, and Social Services for Pregnant School Girls. The Durham Cooperative School, 604 Chapel Hill Street, Durham, North Carolina 27701.
- ° A Continuing Education Program for School Age Pregnant Girls. Harford-Cecil Supplementary Education Center, Havre de Grace, Maryland 21078.